Claims 1-3 (previously cancelled)

4.(currently amended) An illegitimate duplication preven-
tion method comprising the steps of:

starting process of installing a particular software pro-
gram in a particular apparatus, said particular software pro-
gram having a blank area for insertion of identification infor-
mation in form of a module independently of a program body, and
remaining areas for holding said program body which is provided
independently of said identification information;

executing a dedicated creation program provided in a memory,
said creation program automatically creating an identification
information uniquely for that said particular apparatus in form
of a run-time read module and storing said identification informa-
tion in a predefined address, and self destructing said creation
program after one execution in creating said unique identifica-
tion information;

deciding whether said identification information is valid
for said particular apparatus; and

when said identification information is valid, installing
said particular software having said remaining areas filled with
said program body in said particular apparatus and causing said
run-time read module to be inserted into said blank area of said
software program; and then said particular apparatus executing
said particular software program having said program body and
said run-time read module with said identification information
inserted in said blank area; and wherein

A

in the event said particular software program _having_said_ _program_body_and_filled_blank_area_ is read for duplication by an apparatus other than said particular apparatus, the duplicated software program will not act properly for the said other apparatus because the blank area will not be filled with an appropriate run-time read module having an appropriate iden- tification information _for_the_other_apparatus_; and

_wherein_said_run-time_read_module_is_separated_from_said_ _blank_area_of_said_particular_software_program_when_the_program_ _is_terminated._

5.(currently amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

means for starting process of installing a particular soft- ware program in a particular apparatus, said particular software program having a blank area for insertion of identification infor- mation in form of a module _independently_of_a_program_body,_and_ _remaining_areas_for_holding_said_program_body_which_is_provided_ _independently_of_said_identification_information;_

means for executing a _dedicated_ creation program provided in a memory, said creation program automatically creating an identification information _uniquely_ for _that_ said particular ap- paratus in form of a run-time read module and storing said iden- tification information in a predefined address, and self destruc- ting said creation program after _one_execution_in_ creating said _unique_ identification information;

means for deciding whether said identification information is valid for said particular apparatus; and

B

when said identification information is valid, installing
said particular software having said remaining areas filled with
said program body in said particular apparatus and causing said
run-time read module to be inserted into said blank area of said
software program; and then said particular apparatus executing
said particular software program having said program body and
said run-time read module with said identification information
inserted in said blank area; and wherein

in the event said particular software program having said
program body and filled blank area is read for duplication
by an apparatus other than said particular apparatus, the dupli-
cated software program will not act properly for the said other
apparatus because the blank area will not be filled with an
appropriate run-time read module having an appropriate identi-
fication information for the other apparatus; and

means for separating said run-time read module from said
blank area of said particular software program when the program
is terminated .

6.(currently amended) A medical imaging apparatus comprising
medical image acquisition means for acquiring an image of a sub-
ject; image processing means for processing said image, and dis-
play means for displaying said processed image, wherein said
image processing means comprises:

means for starting process of installing a particular soft-
ware program in a particular apparatus, said particular software

C

program having a blank area for insertion of identification infor-
mation in form of a module independently of a program body, and
remaining areas for holding said program body which is provided
independently of said identification information ;

means for executing a dedicated creation program provided
in a memory, said creation program automatically creating an
identification information uniquely for that said particular ap-
paratus in form of a run-time read module and storing said identi-
fication information in a predefined address, and self destructing
said creation program after one execution in creating said unique
identification information;

means for deciding whether said identification information
is valid for said particular apparatus; and

when said identification information is valid, installing
said particular software having said remaining areas filled with
said program body in said particular apparatus and causing said
run-time read module to be inserted into said blank area of said
software program; and then said particular apparatus executing
said particular software program having said program body and
said run-time read module with said identification information
inserted in said blank area; and wherein

in the event said particular software program having said
program body and filled blank area is read for duplication
by an apparatus other than said particular apparatus, the dupli-
cated software program will not act properly for the said other

D

apparatus because the blank area will not be filled with an appropriate run-time read module having an appropriate identification information for the other apparatus; and

means for separating said run-time read module from said blank area of said particular software program when the program is terminated .